

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA  
NORFOLK DIVISION  
IN ADMIRALTY

EVENING PRAYER, INC.,	)	
	)	
Plaintiff,	)	
	)	
	)	
v.	)	Civil Action No. 2:19-cv-00602
	)	
M/V PRESIDENT FD ROOSEVELT	)	
(ex M/V MAULE (IMO No. 9400069)),	)	
her engines, tackle, appurtenances, <i>etc.</i> , <i>in rem</i> ,	)	
	)	
Defendant.	)	

**VERIFIED COMPLAINT**

COMES NOW, EVENING PRAYER, INC., Plaintiff herein, and brings this, its Verified Complaint, against the Defendant M/V PRESIDENT FD ROOSEVELT (ex M/V MAULE, IMO No. 9400069), her engines, tackle, appurtenances, *etc.*, *in rem* (hereinafter the “MAULE”) as follows:

1. This is a case of admiralty and maritime jurisdiction. The Court has subject matter jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1333, and this is an admiralty and maritime claim and action within the meaning of Rule 9(h) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

2. Venue is proper in this District as the MAULE is now, or will be during the pendency of this action, within this District and within the jurisdiction of this Court by virtue of the Letter of Undertaking given by Gard P. & I. (Bermuda) Ltd. on March 3, 2017, as security for Plaintiff’s claims in lieu of an arrest of the MAULE (the “LOU”). The LOU contains an agreement that a verified Statement of Right or Interest of the MAULE will be filed in this action

pursuant to Rule C(6)(a) of the Supplemental Rules for Admiralty or Maritime Claims and Asset Forfeiture Actions “irrespective of the vessel not being in the jurisdiction of the Court at the time (and without raising any defenses as to her absence from said jurisdiction).” (A copy of said Letter of Undertaking is attached as Exhibit 1.)

The Parties

3. Plaintiff Evening Prayer, Inc. is a New York corporation and, at all material times, was the owner of the commercial fishing vessel F/V EVENING PRAYER.

4. Defendant MAULE was and is an ocean-going containership currently named the M/V PRESIDENT FD ROOSEVELT (IMO No. 9400069).

The Collision

5. At approximately 04:49 LT / 09:49 UTC on December 8, 2016, in approximate position 40.53° North, 071.15° West, while the MAULE was heading in a westerly direction at a speed of approximately 19 knots en route to New York, New York and the EVENING PRAYER was heading in a northeasterly direction at a speed of approximately 7 knots en route to new fishing grounds when the vessels collided.

6. At all material times, the MAULE was obliged to comply with, *inter alia*, the provisions of the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea (“COLREGS”), all as amended, and the general maritime law.

7. The collision occurred as a direct and proximate result of, *inter alia*, the acts, omissions, negligence, unseaworthiness, fault, recklessness, lack of due care, and breaches and violations of duties and law of the MAULE and her crew, including, but not limited to, breaches and violations of the COLREGS and the general maritime law.

8. As a result of this collision, the EVENING PRAYER sustained extensive hull damage and was out of service and unable to be employed for commercial fishing by Plaintiff for approximately 98 days.

9. The hull damage to the EVENING PRAYER was repaired by Plaintiff for a cost of \$188,307.02. The loss of earnings incurred by Plaintiff as a result of the EVENING PRAYER being out of service was \$151,407.06. Additional losses were incurred by Plaintiff for surveying and assessing the extensive hull damage sustained by the EVENING PRAYER in an amount to be determined at trial.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff Evening Prayer, Inc. respectfully prays:

a. That judgment be issued against Defendant MAULE in the amount of \$339,714.08, plus interest and costs; and

b. That the Court issue such other and further relief as it deems appropriate.

Date: November 5, 2019

**EVENING PRAYER, INC.**

By: /s/ David N. Ventker  
Of Counsel

David N. Ventker (VSB No. 29983)  
Marissa M. Henderson (VSB No. 44156)  
Ventker Henderson PLLC  
256 West Freemason Street  
Norfolk, Virginia 23510  
Telephone: (757) 625-1192  
Facsimile: (757) 625-1475  
[dventker@ventkerlaw.com](mailto:dventker@ventkerlaw.com)  
[mhenderson@ventkerlaw.com](mailto:mhenderson@ventkerlaw.com)